

What is a Community Jobs Career Jump?

Career Jump is an expansion of Community Jobs that includes private sector placement options to support the career interests of WorkFirst parents. Career Jump builds upon the proven success of Community Jobs and offers more worksite opportunities for the hard-to-employ population. The design of the program includes shorter enrollment, built-in career ladder tracks, higher wages, benefits, and focused training and retention services, as well as the opportunity for skill development and growth in a work setting.

Career Jump assignments develop into unsubsidized jobs at completion. Career Jump is for those TANF parents who are ready to move quickly into unsubsidized employment.

Career Jump parents are eligible to receive retention services once they exit into unsubsidized employment for up to three months.



Brandee's Success Story

In 2003 Brandee was an unemployed single mom on TANF with a criminal record. Today, she is employed full-time as an instructor helping people with hearing impairments in the classroom.

Brandee was born with severe hearing impairments, which, as an adult made it difficult for her to find and keep a job. After being on TANF for two years, she connected with her local Community Jobs Program. She was quickly assessed and placed on a work assignment that could utilize her highly marketable sign language skills, helping other hearing impaired students through interpretation in the classroom.

Brandee was able to turn her paid work assignment into a full-time job with the same organization as a classroom instructor and sign language interpreter. She has received multiple promotions and is now completely off TANF, in better housing and working toward self-sufficiency.



"I'm so thankful for the support and guidance I've received. I didn't think there was an employer who would be willing to accept me for who I am."

*Brandee
Community Jobs Parent*



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WASHINGTON
WorkFirst

"A job, a better job, a better life"

WorkFirst is Washington State's welfare-to-work strategy. It is based on the belief that everyone has abilities needed in today's workforce, and those who can work should.



COMMUNITY*JOBS

Your Partner for Success

What is Community Jobs?

Community Jobs (CJ) is a WorkFirst Program designed to serve hard-to-employ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) parents. Since 1998, adults in every county in Washington State have gained valuable work experience, marketable employment skills, confidence, and an avenue to permanent, unsubsidized employment. These parents, who did not succeed in other WorkFirst programs, are provided work experience and support to manage barriers and go to work.

Community Jobs parents improve the quality of their communities through working in community, government and tribal organizations. Local private non-profit and for profit contractor-partners provide parents with 20 hours per week of work, a paycheck, one-on-one support, and mentoring to resolve employment barriers.

Community Jobs increases a TANF parent's self-awareness, addresses work-life balance issues and provides new avenues for unsubsidized employment.



The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) has been part of the four-agency WorkFirst partnership since WorkFirst was created in 1997. CTED has successfully used its strong linkages with local communities to implement and continuously improve the Community Jobs Program and ensure strong collaboration and innovation.

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) administers the Community Jobs Program. CTED contracts statewide with 16 community-based organizations to provide local service delivery. This includes establishing work sites and providing intensive case management, personal goal development and support services to parents. Community Jobs serves approximately 2,200 WorkFirst parents each year.

Washington's WorkFirst Partnership Credit for successful outcomes are shared by:

- Department of Community Trade and Economic Development
- Department of Social and Health Services
- Employment Security Department
- State Board of Community and Technical Colleges
- Community Based Organizations
- Employers
- TANF Parents

Without the combine efforts of our partnership our 64% placement rate to unsubsidized employment would not be possible.

Who Might Benefit From a Community Jobs Assignment?

Community Jobs is designed to support those TANF parents who want to go to work but struggle to secure employment due to a lack of marketable skills, poor work history, and other job readiness issues that prevent successful job placement. Additional barriers include lack of a high school diploma or GED, substance abuse issues, domestic violence, long-term sanction, mental health issues and homelessness.

Community Jobs is there for TANF parents who need a supported environment to help them become successful at going to work and managing their lives. Programs are geared to engage TANF parents who need intensive services strategies that will help them manage their lives so that they can be successful working and in life!

"Getting parents back to work is good for families and working families are good for Washington," said Governor Gregoire.

CONTRACTORS provide intensive case management to eliminate barriers to permanent employment. Local community providers assist parents with ready access to basic education and vocational training.